

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated January 30, 2004, the Examiner allowed claims 32-35, 39-59, 89-93, indicated that claims 95-99 would be allowable if placed in independent form, and rejected claims 94 and 100-107 as obvious in view of Connolly et al. or Aasland et al. in view of either Biersack or Lechner. Applicant have amended the claims and traverse the rejections for the reasons set forth below.

§ 112 Rejections

Claim 99 has been amended to remove the phrase "or the like." Applicants submit that this cures this grounds for rejection.

§ 103 Rejections

Claim 94 has been cancelled. Claim 95 has been placed in independent form and the claims that formerly depended from claim 94 have been amended to depend from claim 95. Thus, claims 94-107 are now in condition for allowance.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Since receiving the Final Office Action in this case, Applicants have filed a Supplemental IDS for the purpose of placing in the record art that was newly received in the course of related foreign patent prosecution. Upon brief review, Applicants believe that the newly submitted art contains no disclosure that would render the present claims unpatentable. Applicants request that the Examiner consider the presently amended claims against the new references.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendments place the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner enter the present amendments and allow the case. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, or otherwise feels it would be helpful, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (713) 238-8043.

Respectfully submitted,



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